

# Town of Ellington

## ELECTION DAY 2017

### Important Information regarding the November 7, 2017 Election

The information in this publication was prepared through the Town Clerk's Office

#### **Election Day November 7, 2017**

**Polls will be open  
6:00 AM to 8:00 PM**

**District 1: Ellington High School  
37 Maple Street**

**District 2: Crystal Lake School  
59 South Road**

**Note:** Non-electors (on the grand list as of October 2016) who wish to vote on ballot questions regarding the Charter Revision may do so at the Town Hall, 55 Main Street.

To determine your voting district, visit our website: [ellington-ct.gov](http://ellington-ct.gov)  
Select 'Town Services'  
Select 'Registrar of Voters'

#### **ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Absentee Ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office—860-870-3105.

#### **Deadline to apply is November 6**

Any qualified voter unable to vote due to the following reasons may obtain an Absentee Ballot: Illness or physical disability; absence from town during all election hours; religious beliefs forbidding secular activity on election day; serving as an election official at a polling place other than their own; or active service in the Armed Forces.

In order for your vote to count, Absentee Ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's office in person (55 Main Street) by 6:00 p.m. on November 6 **OR** if returned by mail, (PO Box 187) must be received by the Town Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 7. Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls.

#### **REGISTER TO VOTE**

The deadline for registration to vote in the November 7, 2017 election is October 31, 2017 for mail-in forms and for in-person registration (see Voter Making Sessions below). However, if a person becomes 18 years of age, a citizen or resident of the Town after October 31, 2017, that person may register up until 5:00 p.m. on November 6, 2017, at the Office of the Registrar of Voters located in the lower level of Town Hall, 55 Main Street.

If you are voting as a non-electors on ballot questions, please keep in mind that you must be on the grand list of October, 2016, to be eligible to vote and you will vote at the Town Hall, in the office of the Registrar of Voters.

To register to become a voter in Ellington or to change your voting information, please call 860-870-3107 or pick up a voter registration card at the Registrar of Voters Office, the Hall Memorial Library or the Town Clerk's Office. You may also get an application online from the Secretary of the State's website, [www.sots.state.ct.us](http://www.sots.state.ct.us). Return the cards to the Registrar of Voters, in person at 55 Main Street or mail to P.O. Box 187, Ellington, CT 06029.

**Election Day Registrations:** Residents can register and vote in person on Election Day in the Registrar of Voters Office from 6:00 AM—8:00 PM with proof of identity and residency.

#### **VOTER MAKING SESSIONS**

Date	Time	Location
October 3	9:00 a.m.—12 Noon	Registrar of Voters Office
October 31	9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.	Registrar of Voters Office

<b>Registrar of Voters Office Hours:</b>	Monday	2:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.
	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.— 4:00 noon
	Thursday	9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

**Telephone: 860-870-3107 ~ 55 Main Street**

**Town Hall  
55 Main Street  
P O Box 187  
Ellington, CT 06029**

**BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
VERNON, CT  
PERMIT NO. 226**

**ELLINGTON  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2017 BALLOT QUESTIONS**

In addition to the slate of candidates running for election on November 7, 2017, the following questions will also appear on the ballot. Please take the time to read and understand the questions so you can make an informed vote at the polls on Election Day.

**Town Charter:**

The Town Charter is the basic law that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures for the Town of Ellington. This important document guides our leaders and citizens in the smooth operation of the Town. In December 2014, the Board of Selectmen appointed a seven-member Charter Revision Commission. The members, Ellen O'Shaughnessy (Chair), John Daigle, Bruce Fader, Robert Harvey, Mark Joyse, Dale Roberson and Michael Stupinski, were charged with reviewing the Charter and recommending changes. The Commission solicited input from all Departments and Commission/Boards/Agencies and scheduled a public hearing to listen to the citizens' ideas. The next 16 months were spent discussing the proposed revisions. The questions, as they will appear on the ballot and the explanation of each, are listed below.

The following documents are available on the Town website, [ellington-ct.gov](http://ellington-ct.gov), in the Town Clerk's Office (call 860-870-3105 to request a copy) and the First Selectman's Office: Town Charter, Charter Revision Commission Final Report and the Board of Selectmen's August 19, 2016 Minutes approving the revisions for voting.

Note: Charter amendments approved on November 7, 2017 shall take effect on January 1, 2018.

**Proposed Charter Revision Ballot Questions**

Questions as they will appear on the ballot are in bold italic; following each question is an explanation; Changes to the sections are in italic.

- 1. Shall the Board of Library Directors be renamed to the Library Board of Trustees, as prescribed in State Statutes Chapter 190, Section 11-21?*** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Currently the ruling body of the Hall Memorial Library is known as the Board of Library Directors.

Change: SECTION 302. ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE: TOWN ELECTION: (d) Three (3) members of the *Library Board of Trustees*, each of whom shall serve for terms of four (4) years, and who shall succeed those members of said board whose terms then expire, so that the *Library Board of Trustees* shall continue to consist of six (6) members, each of whom shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.

- 2. Shall the regular members of the Zoning Board of Appeals be prohibited from concurrently serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission, as prescribed in State Statutes Chapter 124, Section 8-5?***  
☐ Yes ☐ No

Per State Statutes, Regular members of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be prohibited from concurrently serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Change: SECTION 302. ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE: TOWN ELECTION: (g) The Zoning Board of Appeals shall consist of five (5) members; said members shall be elected to staggered terms of four (4) years; *said members shall be prohibited from concurrently serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission.*

3. *Shall the alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals be prohibited from concurrently serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission, as prescribed in State Statutes Chapter 124, Section 8-5?* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Per State Statute, Alternate Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be prohibited from concurrently serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Change: SECTION 820. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – ALTERNATES: The Board of Selectmen shall appoint three (3) alternate members to the Zoning Board of Appeals who shall serve for a term of two (2) years; *said members shall be prohibited from concurrently serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission.*

4. *Shall the section creating the Senior Center Endowment Fund Committee be repealed?* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Currently the Senior Center Endowment Fund Committee has served its purpose.

Change: SECTION 823: SENIOR CENTER ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE: *Repealed. ~~The Board of Selectmen shall appoint, in accordance with the provisions of Section 802 of this Charter, a Senior Center Endowment Fund Committee consisting of three (3) members to serve staggered terms of three (3) years. The members of the committee shall be Ellington residents and all three members shall be sixty-two (62) years of age or older.~~*

5. *Shall a section be created adding a permanent Design Review Board?* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Currently the Design Review Board is an ad-hoc board. This change will add Section 827 and amend Section 922.

Add: SECTION 827. DESIGN REVIEW BOARD: *The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a Design Review Board consisting of five (5) members, said members to serve staggered terms of four (4) years to advise the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding aesthetics and character of commercial, industrial and other significant developments projects.*

Change: SECTION 922. TOWN PLANNER: [...] (b) Serve as technical advisor, administrative officer to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Inland Wetlands Agency, Conservation Commission, *Design Review Board*, and the Economic Development Commission, assisting such commissions in the discharge of their statutory duties; act as Zoning Enforcement and Wetlands Officer as necessary; [...]

6. *Shall a section be created adding a permanent Patriotic Committee?* ☐ Yes ☐ No

Currently the Patriotic Committee is an ad-hoc committee. This change will add Section 828.

Add: SECTION 828. PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE: *The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a Patriotic Committee consisting of twelve (12) members, said members to serve staggered terms of four (4) years to develop, plan, arrange, supervise, and conduct programs and activities that foster pride and patriotism among the citizens of the town and to make recommendations of such programs and activities to the Board of Selectmen for approval.*

**7. Shall the wording of Section 917 be amended to strike language that the Board of Selectmen is to appoint a Fire Marshal within 30 days of the commencement of their term in office? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Currently the incoming Board of Selectmen has thirty (30) days from the commencement of their term in office to appoint a Fire Marshal. This revision will eliminate the need for the Board of Selectmen to reappoint the Fire Marshal every two years and is consistent with the manner that other Administrative Officers are appointed.

Change: SECTION 917. FIRE MARSHAL: The Board of Selectmen shall appoint ~~not later than thirty (30) days after the commencement of their first term of office under the provisions of this Charter,~~ a Fire Marshal and such deputies as may be required. Said Fire Marshal and such deputies shall serve an indefinite term. The respective fire departments may offer advisory recommendations for consideration by the Board of Selectmen for any such appointments. Said Fire Marshal shall have all the powers and duties not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter, conferred or imposed by the General Statutes on such officers and such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Selectmen.

**8. Shall language be added allowing the Fire Marshal to appoint and remove deputies, assistants, and employees in his or her office, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Currently the Section 917 of the Charter does not contain language regarding the appointment and removal of deputies, assistants, and employees in his or her office.

Change: SECTION 917. FIRE MARSHAL: The Board of Selectmen shall appoint ~~[not later than thirty (30) days after the commencement of their first term of office under the provisions of this Charter,]~~ a Fire Marshal and such deputies as may be required. Said Fire Marshal and such deputies shall serve an indefinite term. The respective fire departments may offer advisory recommendations for consideration by the Board of Selectmen for any such appointments. Said Fire Marshal shall have all the powers and duties not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter, conferred or imposed by the General Statutes on such officers and such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Selectmen. *Said Fire Marshal may appoint and remove deputies, assistants, and employees in his or her office, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen and subject to rules and regulations concerning Town employees as may be adopted by the Board of Selectmen.*

**9. Shall the minimum monetary amount that would require competitive bidding be increased from \$7,500 to \$25,000, as prescribed in State Statutes Chapter 98, Section 7-148v? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Per Competitive Bidding Ordinance, Chapter 28 and State Statutes 7-148v, the minimum monetary amount that would require competitive bidding is set at \$25,000.

Change: SECTION 1011. PURCHASING: Purchases for the Town of Ellington, except the Board of Education and the Probate Court, shall be made under such rules and regulations as may be established by the Board of Selectmen. For any purchase estimated at *twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000)* ~~\$7,500~~ or more, the Finance Officer shall invite sealed bids unless the Board of Selectmen shall decide it to be against the best interest of the town. The Finance Officer shall provide a minimum of ten (10) days public notice to potential bidders by publication at least once in a newspaper having circulation in the town. The Finance Officer shall, with the approval of the requesting board, commission, committee, or department, award the purchase or contract to the lowest responsible bidder thereon or may reject any or all such bids or proposals. All such sealed bids or proposals shall be opened publicly. For any purchase less than *twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000)* ~~\$7,500~~, or such other amount required by law, the Finance Officer or his designee shall negotiate directly with prospective suppliers prior to the Finance Officer awarding the contract.

**10. Shall the Charter be amended to include corrections to spelling, syntax, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar that do not affect the meaning of the Charter? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Revisions include grammatical and formatting changes, clarifications and technical changes.